



Press release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Chemical Materials Agency

Public Outreach and Information Office

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ABCDF REPORTS ALARM IN NEUTRALIZATION FACILITY

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md. – Very low levels of mustard agent vapor were detected Friday, November 14 at 4:02 p.m. inside a ton container drain station room of the Aberdeen Chemical Agent Disposal Facility, which is located at the Edgewood Area of Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland.

Three operators were using hot water to rinse a recently drained ton container when the agent monitor at the drain station alarmed. The three operators masked and evacuated the building in accordance with safety response and evacuation procedures.

As a precautionary measure, the three operators were sent to the on-site medical clinic, where they were monitored, medically evaluated and cleared.

The ton container drain station area is located within the Neutralization Building and is under ventilation confinement. Agent was not released to the outside atmosphere and at no time was there a threat to the on or off-post community or the environment. ABCDF officials are investigating the cause of the agent alarm.

Mustard agent disposal operations at the ABCDF, located in the Edgewood Area of Aberdeen Proving Ground, have successfully neutralized and destroyed more than 76 tons of agent since April 23, 2003.